

BING CROSBY * BIX BEIDERBECKE AND HIS GANG * JESSIE MATTHEWS * JACK HYLTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

GEORGE BAKER * VICTOR ARDEN & PHIL OHMAN AND THEIR ORCHESTRA * SAM COSLOW * SAVOY ORPHEANS



The song is...
**Richard Rodgers
and Lorenz Hart**



JOHNNY MARVIN * LEO REISMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA * DICK ROBERTSON * STUART ROSS AND JOE SARGENT

FRANKIE TRUMBAUER AND HIS ORCHESTRA * HUTCH * ROGER WOLFE KAHN AND HIS ORCHESTRA

LIVING ERA

Mono

Recordings from 1927 to 1935

THE SONG IS . . .

RICHARD RODGERS & LORENZ HART

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. We'll Be The Same | 2.54 |
| 2. My Heart Stood Still | 3.17 |
| 3. The Blue Room | 3.10 |
| 4. The Little Things You Do | 2.48 |
| 5. A Little Birdie Told Me So | 3.05 |
| 6. Why Do You Suppose? | 2.26 |
| 7. Maybe It's Me | 2.40 |
| 8. The Girl Friend / Mountain Greenery / Step On
The Blues / What's The Use Of Talking? | 3.26 |
| 9. Thou Swell | 2.59 |
| 10. It's Easy To Remember | 3.15 |
| 11. Yours Sincerely | 3.33 |
| 12. Dancing On The Ceiling | 3.03 |
| 13. Blue Moon | 3.12 |
| 14. Hello! / Where's That Rainbow? /
A Tree In The Park | 3.11 |
| 15. Give Her A Kiss | 2.59 |
| 16. With A Song In My Heart | 3.03 |

All titles composed by Rodgers & Hart

ARTISTS:

- Victor Arden & Phil Orman Orchestra (1),
 Jessie Matthews (2, 12), Savoy Orpheans (3),
 Leslie A. "Hutch" Hutchinson (4, 16),
 Roger Wolfe Kahn Orchestra (5), Ross & Sargent (6),
 Jack Hylton & His Orchestra (7),
 The Light Opera Company (8, 14),
 Bix Beiderbecke & His Gang (9), Bing Crosby (10),
 Leo Reisman Orchestra (11),
 Frankie Trumbauer & His Orchestra (13), Sam Coslow (15)

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MONO

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DIGITAL AUDIO

WE'LL BE THE SAME

(from 'America's Sweetheart')

VICTOR ARDEN AND PHIL OHMAN AND THEIR ORCHESTRA

with vocal by Frank Luther

BS 67438-1 Recorded in New York, 10 February 1931 2:53

MY HEART STOOD STILL

(from 'One Dam' Thing After Another')

JESSIE MATTHEWS

with piano accompaniment by Leslie A. Hutchinson ('Hutch')

135A Recorded in London, October 1927 3:15

THE BLUE ROOM

(from 'The Girl Friend')

THE SAVOY ORPHEANS

under the direction of Carroll Gibbons

with vocal by The Hamilton Sisters and Fordyce

Bb 11082-3 Recorded in Hayes, Middlesex, 1 July 1927 3:08

THE LITTLE THINGS YOU DO

(from 'Cochran's Revue of 1930')

LESLIE A. HUTCHINSON ('HUTCH')

with his own piano accompaniment

E 3190-2 Recorded in London, 11 April 1930 2:46

A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME SO

(from 'Peggy-Ann')

ROGER WOLFE KAHN AND HIS ORCHESTRA

with vocal by Johnny Marvin

BVE 37569-2 Recorded in New York, 25 January 1927 3:03

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE?

(from 'Heads Up!')

STUART ROSS AND JOE SARGENT

with piano accompaniment

E 3205-2 Recorded in London, 14 April 1930 2:39

MAYBE IT'S ME

(from 'Peggy-Ann')

JACK HYLTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

with vocal by Jack Hylton

Bb 11266-1 Recorded in the Small Queen's Hall, London,

19 July 1927 2:39

**THE GIRL FRIEND
MOUNTAIN GREENERY
STEP ON THE BLUES****WHAT'S THE USE OF TALKING?**

(from 'The Girl Friend')

GEORGE BAKER AND DEREK OLDHAM

with The Light Opera Company

Cc 11317-1 Recorded in the Small Queen's Hall, London,

25 August 1927 3:26

THOU SWELL -

(from 'Connecticut Yankee')

BIX BEIDERBECKE AND HIS GANG

400617-C Recorded in New York, 17 April 1928 2:57

IT'S EASY TO REMEMBER

(from 'Mississippi')

BING CROSBY

with The Rhythmettes, Three Shades Of Blue and

Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra

DLA 95-B Recorded in Los Angeles, 21 February 1935 3:13

YOURS SINCERELY

(from 'Spring Is Here')

LEO REISMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA

with vocal by Ran Weeks

BVE 50950-3 Recorded in New York, 1 April 1929 3:31

DANCING ON THE CEILING

(from 'Evergreen')

JESSIE MATTHEWS

with orchestra directed by Carroll Gibbons

CA 14473-1 Recorded in London, 4 May 1934 3:01

BLUE MOON

FRANKIE TRUMBauer AND HIS ORCHESTRA

with vocal by Dick Robertson

86219-1 Recorded in New York, 20 November 1934 3:09

HELLO!**WHERE'S THAT RAINBOW?****A TREE IN THE PARK**

(from 'Peggy-Ann')

GEORGE BAKER AND BESSIE JONES

with The Light Opera Company

Cc 11318-1 Recorded in the Small Queen's Hall, London,

25 August 1927 3:11

GIVE HER A KISS

(from 'The Phantom President')

SAM COSLOW

with Nat W. Finston and the Paramount Orchestra

PBS 69394-2 Recorded in Hollywood, 28 September 1932 2:57

WITH A SONG IN MY HEART

(from 'Cochran's 1930 Revue')

LESLIE A. HUTCHINSON ('HUTCH')

with his own piano accompaniment

E 3191-1 Recorded in London, 11 April 1930 3:00

All titles: Music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Lorenz Hart

The songwriting team of Rodgers and Hart is one of the cornerstones on which the edifice of American popular music is built. Although lyricist Lorenz Hart was seven years his partner Richard Rodgers' senior — he was born in New York on May 2, 1895, while Rodgers was born there on June 28, 1902 — they were both educated at Columbia University and met there, writing their first songs together as long ago as 1919. For the first six years of the partnership they were not very successful; their songs went unrecorded and unnoticed, but as they were on the point of giving up in favour of more assured positions in life, they scored an

overnight success with **Manhattan**, in the 1925 revue **Garrick Gaieties**. There followed a long series of immensely successful shows that featured the work of Rodgers and Hart, sixteen of which are included in this album. By 1943 Lorenz Hart's dissipated life and unreliable habits caught up with him, and he succumbed to pneumonia in November that year; Rodgers continued writing with Oscar Hammerstein II as his lyricist for another thirty years. The brilliance of the numbers they created in their heyday together has made Rodgers and Hart immortal. Let us look briefly at each number in this set.

WE'LL BE THE SAME This was one of the principal numbers in the revue **America's Sweetheart** which had a run of 135 performances at the Broadhurst Theatre, opening on February 10, 1931, the same day as Victor Arden and Phil Ohman, the famous piano duo, recorded this version with an orchestra of picked musicians. The lyrics anticipate the eternally-true subject used six years later by Ira Gershwin in **Our Love Is Here To Stay**, and are typical of Lorenz Hart in his most romantic mood.

MY HEART STOOD STILL Here we have the original-cast recording of an evergreen number that stopped the show when twenty-year-old Jessie Matthews sang it for the first time in the London Pavilion production of C. B. Cochran's revue **One Dam' Thing After Another** on May 20, 1927. Leslie Hutchinson, not long arrived from the West Indies via New York, is the fine piano accompanist here.

THE BLUE ROOM One of the somewhat earlier Rodgers-and-Hart successes that was as great a hit in London as it had been in New York in **The Girl Friend**. It could be said that this wholesome but not mawkish presentation of a charming theme (married bliss either already existing or immediately anticipated) started a vogue for similar numbers that followed over the next three or four years. This record proved to be one of the best sellers of all time for Carroll Gibbons and the Savoy Orpheans, one of the finest dance bands in London in the late twenties.

THE LITTLE THINGS YOU DO "Hutch" again, this time as a singer self-accompanied. The revue called simply **Cochran's Revue of 1930** opened at the London Pavilion on March 27, 1930, for a healthy run of 245 performances, and it featured "Hutch" but not as a singer; this number is not one of Rodgers and Hart's best-remembered songs, unaccountably; no-one could do it better justice than "Hutch".

A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME SO **Peggy-Ann**, the show that featured this whimsical number, was a much bigger Broadway hit (333 performances at the Vanderbilt, opening December 27, 1926) than in London (134 at Daly's, opening exactly seven months later), but this song was very much a hit on both sides of the Atlantic. Roger Wolfe Kahn's fine orchestra features the cheerful voice of Johnny Marvin and the "hot" violin of Joe Venuti.

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE? This is one of the songs that achieved much greater success than the show in which it was sung — **Heads Up** at the Palace, London, opening on May 1, 1930, but closing only a few weeks later despite a strong cast who did not record. Stuart Ross and Joe Sargent were a white American duo who were very successful in England at the time.

MAYBE IT'S ME Another song from **Peggy-Ann**, played here by Jack Hylton and his Orchestra, with the leader singing the vocal refrain. Not as well-known as others from the same score, this is nevertheless a gem of Rodgers-and-Hart's earlier work.

THE GIRL FRIEND/MOUNTAIN GREENERY/STEP ON THE BLUES/WHAT'S THE USE OF TALKING? Four of the numbers from **The Girl Friend**, sung by a group of picked soloists including George Baker and Derek Oldham, both as much at home in musical comedy as in opera and operetta. **Mountain Greenery** in particular has enjoyed a long life in public esteem, and demonstrates Lorenz Hart's outstanding ability to create memorable, singable, witty lyrics with inner rhymes.

THOU SWELL The American production that included **Thou Swell** in its score was called **A Connecticut Yankee**, and it opened at the Vanderbilt on November 3, 1927, for a run of 418 performances; it did not reach England until October 10, 1929, when it began a run of only a few weeks under the rather ponderous title **A Yankee At The Court Of King Arthur**. The lyrics are couched in pseudo-olde-Englyshe with absurd effect; they are not given on this record by Bix Beiderbecke and his Gang, who give it an uncompromising Dixieland jazz treatment, to which it responds very well.

IT'S EASY TO REMEMBER Bing Crosby sang this beautiful melody in his film **Mississippi** in 1935; the title is particularly appropriate. Here again we have an original-cast recording, this time from a film, for which medium the team were beginning to adapt.

YOURS SINCERELY **Spring Is Here**, the show from which this song came, enjoyed only a very modest success at the Alvin Theatre, New York, from March 11, 1929 (104 performances; it never played London at all). There were records a-plenty of its principal songs, however, and as before, the quality of these impressed itself on the public much more than the show. Leo Reisman's supper-club orchestra is exactly right for the sophisticated sentiment of the number.

DANCING ON THE CEILING Another original cast recording, again by Jessie Matthews, who starred in **Evergreen** at the Adelphi (December 3, 1930, 254 performances) and four years later in the film of the same name. The song has all the ingredients of a smash hit, and that is what it was ... and still is. Who could forget the dance routine — and the almost surrealistic character of the lyrics? Or the flowing grace of the melody?

BLUE MOON This has the distinction of being the only Rodgers-and-Hart song never to have been sung in a stage production, though it was originally written for one with a very different lyric. Even so, it must be one of the loveliest creations in twentieth-century popular music, and Frankie Trumbauer and his Orchestra of friends from Paul Whiteman's 1934 orchestra coax everything they can from it with superb results.

HELLO!/WHERE'S THAT RAINBOW?/A TREE IN THE PARK Three more from **Peggy-Ann** by the Light Opera Company, that versatile assembly of singers who sound inspired by the freshness and originality of the material, which in this case has not, strangely, stayed to become permanently popular, though hits at the time.

GIVE HER A KISS Another from a forgotten film, **The Phantom President**, sung by Sam Coslow as a graceful tribute from one top-flight composer to two others.

WITH A SONG IN MY HEART Another "Hutch" recording of a huge success from **Cochran's 1930 Revue**, long afterwards and for many years the signature tune of the BBC request show **Family Favourites**; a typically perfect match of fine lyrics to a delightful melody.

Brian Rust

Other works by Rodgers and Hart in the ASV LIVING ERA catalogue

FRANK CRUMIT: MOUNTAIN GREENERY

Mountain Greenery/The Girl Friend
AJA 5001

BIX 'N' BING

You Took Advantage Of Me
Do I Hear You Saying 'I Love You'
AJA 5004

RUTH ETTING: TEN CENTS A DANCE

Ten Cents A Dance
AJA 5008

ELSIE CARLISLE: THAT'S LOVE

Ten Cents A Dance
AJA 5019

FILM STAR PARADE

Maurice Chevalier & Jeanette MacDonald:
Love Me Tonight
AJA 5020

MAURICE CHEVALIER: BRAVO MAURICE!

The Poor Apache/Mimi
AJA 5034

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